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CLAIMS

1. A method for generating an Identification and Verification Template (IVT) comprising the steps of:

obtaining a user biometric; and

generating a dependency vector from the user biometric; such that the template is bound cryptographically to the user.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the dependency vector includes check digits of the user biometric using an error correcting code.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein a canonical user biometric is generated from a function of multiple readings of the user's biometric.
 - 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the function is a majority decoding function.
- 5. The method of claim 1, in which the template contains public identification information.
- 6. A method for uniquely identifying a user via biometric analysis comprising the steps of:

acquiring an input comprising a User Biometric from a reader (UB);

an input comprising an IVT from a token or card; and

performing a validation protocol given as input the user's biometric (UB) and the IVT, whereby a decision value is computed giving either "AUTH" or "Other", where "Other" may be anything else but "AUTH".

- 7. The method of claim 6, in which the validation protocol is a cryptographic validation mechanism for an authentication scheme.
- 8. The method of claim 6, where the user biometric is an iris scan or a portion of an iris scan.

- 9. The method of claim 6, where the user biometric (UB) is derived from a function of multiple scans of the biometric.
 - 10. The method of claim 9, where the function includes the use of majority decoding.
- 11. The Method of claim 10, where the function includes error correction of the biometric component after majority decoding is applied.
- 12. The method of claim 6, where the biometric registration template incorporates a password encrypted value of the registration template.
 - 13. A method of secure pattern recognition is provided comprising the steps of: acquiring a first pattern; combining the pattern with authenticating information;

encrypting the combination of the pattern and the authenticating information to provide a template;

acquiring a second pattern; and

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processing the second pattern and the template to determine if the first pattern and the second pattern are the same.

14. A method of providing an individual verification template comprises the steps of: acquiring a biometric pattern from an individual; and

cryptographically combining the biometric pattern with authenticating information to provide the individual verification template.